

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 05972 140842Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-05 ACDA-12 /109 W
-----129275 150255Z /64

R 131437Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5958
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
COMIDEASTFOR
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 5972

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, MOPS, ET, SO
SUBJ: OGADEN FIGHTING

REF: DJIBOUTI 514

1. GROD AND REFUGEE PERCEPTIONS OF CURRENT STATE OF PLAY
IN OGADEN DIFFER MARKEDLY FROM THIS EMBASSY'S ESTIMATE OF
SITUATION. ALL INDICATIONS AVAILABLE HERE SHOW COMBAT
CONFINED OVER PAST SEVERAL DAYS TO SPORADIC ENGAGEMENTS
IN AREAS EAST OF HARAR, WITH NO HARD EVIDENCE OF ANY SIG-
NIFICANT INCREASE IN LEVEL OF FIGHTING. THERE IS GENERAL
ETHIOPIAN EXPECTATION THAT SOMALIS WILL LAUNCH MAJOR AT-
TACK DIRECTED AGAINST HARAR IN VERY NEAR FUTURE, AND IT
MAY BE THAT ANTICIPATION OF STEP-UP IN FIGHTING (AS
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SUGGESTED DJIBOUTI 513), RATHER THAN NEW FIGHTING
ITSELF, HAS PROVOKED INCREASED REFUGEE FLOW TO
DJIBOUTI.

2. WE ALSO DOUBT REFUGEE'S REPORTS OF ALLEGED EPMG
PLAN TO ATTACK ALONG RAILROAD LINE. WHILE ETHIOPIAN
AIR FORCE MAY FLY SORTIES ALONG RAILWAY FROM TIME

TO TIME, ETHIOPIA IS STILL VERY MUCH ON DEFENSIVE AND IS NOT EXPECTED TO BE IN POSITION TO ATTACK ANYONE IN SOUTHEAST FOR SOME TIME TO COME.

3. EMBASSY IS LIKEWISE PERPLEXED BY GROD REPORTS OF SOMALI PRESSURE ON DIRE DAWA. ALMOST DAILY REPORTS FROM FRENCH AND ITALIAN CITIZENS IN DIRE DAWA SHOW CITY ABSOLUTELY QUIET, WITH NO INDICATIONS OF FIGHTING TAKING PLACE ANYWHERE IN IMMEDIATE VICINITY. NOR ARE WE AWARE OF ANY RECENT SOMALI VICTORY BETWEEN DIRE DAWA AND ADDIS ABABA.

4. WE HAVE SEEN OCCASIONAL FOREIGN NEWS DISPATCHES, CLAIMING THAT ETHIOPIANS NOW FLYING MIGS IN COMBAT, BUT HAVE NO EVIDENCE HERE THAT LEADS US TO BELIEVE THAT ANY MIGS ARE AS YET OPERATIONAL FOR ACTUAL FIGHTING.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FORCE & TROOP LEVELS, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771067/aaaacerv.tel
Line Count: 80
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Litigation History:
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Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 942147
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OGADEN FIGHTING
TAGS: PBOR, MOPS, ET, SO
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